Case	2:03-bk-37579-BR Doc 363 Filed 11/2: Main Document	3/05 Entered 11/28/05 1 2:11:25 Desc Page 1 of 15 FILED
1	James C. Bastian, Jr. – Bar No. 175415	NOV 2 3 2005
	Irena Leigh Norton – Bar No. 167017	
2	Manijha Kadir – Bar No. 219974 SHULMAN HODGES & BASTIAN LLP	CLERK U.S. GANKRUFTCY COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA BY CLORK
3	3750 University Avenue, Suite 670 Riverside, California 92501	
4	Telephone: (949) 340-3400 Facsimile: (949) 340-3000	
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6	Special Counsel for Richard A. Marshack, the	Chapter 7 Trustee
7		
8	UNITED STATES B	BANKRUPTCY COURT
9	CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALI	FORNIA, LOS ANGELES DIVISION
10		
11	In re	Case No. LA 03-37579 TD
12	FOUR STAR FINANCIAL SERVICES, LLC.,	Chapter 7
13	Debtor.	Adversary No.
14	Deptor.	COMPLAINT FOR:
15	RICHARD A. MARSHACK, solely in his capacity as the Chapter 7 Trustee,	1. AVOIDANCE OF INTENTIONAL FRAUDULENT TRANSFERS
16	Plaintiff,	2. AVOIDANCE OF CONSTRUCTIVE FRAUDULENT TRANSFERS
17	vs.,	
18	DAVID ROBERTS, an individual,	3. RECOVERY OF AVOIDED TRANSFERS
19	Defendant(s).	4. DISALLOWANCE OF CLAIMS
20	,	Status Conference:
21		Date: [To Be Set] Time: [To Be Set]
22		Place: Courtroom 1345 Edward R. Roybal Federal Building and Courthouse
24		255 East Temple Street Los Angeles, CA 90012
25		Los Migeles, CA 90012
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SHULMAN HODGES & BASTIAN LLP 3750 University Avenue Suite 670 Riverside, CA 92501

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Richard A. Marshack ("Trustee" or "Plaintiff"), solely in his capacity as the duly appointed and acting Chapter 7 Trustee for the bankruptcy estate of Four Star Financial Services,

alleges as follows:

4 alleges as fo

I. STATEMENT OF JURISDICTION AND VENUE

LLC ("Four Star" or "Debtor") hereby brings this Complaint and respectfully complains and

- 1. This adversary proceeding is filed pursuant to Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 7001(1) (a proceeding to recover money or property).
- 2. Plaintiff, as Trustee, has standing to bring this action under 11 U.S.C. §§ 323, 544, 548 and 550 and California Civil Code §§ 3439.04, 3439.05, 3439.06, 3439.07 and 3439.09.
- 3. This Court has jurisdiction over this adversary proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334 in that this proceeding arises in and is related to the Debtor's bankruptcy case, which was commenced through the filing of an involuntary petition for relief under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code against the Debtor on October 24, 2003 (the "Petition Date") in the Central District of California, Los Angeles Division.
- 4. On November 26, 2003, the court entered an Order for Relief under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code and directed that the Office of the United States Trustee appoint a Chapter 11 Trustee for the Debtor's bankruptcy estate (the "Estate").
- 5. On or about December 11, 2003, the Office of the United States Trustee appointed Richard A. Marshack as the Chapter 11 Trustee for the Debtor's Estate.
- 6. Upon the Chapter 11 Trustee's Motion, and pursuant to court order entered on March 18, 2004, the Debtor's case was converted to one under Chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 7. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1409(a), as this adversary proceeding arises under Title 11 or arises under or relates to a case under Title 11 which is pending in this District and does not involve a consumer debt less than \$5,000.

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	8.	Thi	is actio	on is a	core j	proce	eding	pursu	ant to	28	U.S	S.C.	§ 1	57(b))(2)(A) a	and	(H),
and to	the	extent	any re	elated	claims	are	detern	nined	not to	be	a c	ore	pro	ceedi	ing,	the	Plai	ntiff
conser	ıts to	an enti	ry of f	inal jud	dgment	and	orders	by th	e Ban	krup	otcy	Cou	ırt.					

9. To the extent that the Plaintiff asserts claims under 11 U.S.C. § 544, the Plaintiff is informed and believes and based thereon alleges that there exists in this case one or more creditors holding unsecured claims allowable under 11 U.S.C. §502 or are not allowable under 11 U.S.C. § 502(e), who can avoid the respective transfers as set forth hereinafter under California or other applicable law.

П. **PARTIES**

- 10. Plaintiff is the duly appointed Chapter 7 Trustee for the Debtor's bankruptcy estate, and brings the claims asserted herein in that capacity.
- 11. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that the Defendant, David Roberts, an individual, (the "Defendant") conducted business with the Debtor prior to the Petition Date, specifically as a recipient of commissions and as an investor.

Ш. **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

- 12. Effective January 1, 1997, Four Star acquired the operations of 900 Capital Services, Inc. ("900 Capital"), in order to convert the operation from a corporation to a limited liability company. The managers and principals were unchanged.
- At its inception, Four Star received "roll-over" investments from certain investors 13. who previously invested in 900 Capital. From 1997 until late 2002, Four Star solicited and received investments through the sale of debt instruments named "Cash Flow Notes", through the sale of limited memberships in Four Star, and through the sale of interests in individual long distance telephone call "Arbitrage Contracts".
- 14. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that from 1992, when 900 Capital was incorporated, until the filing of an involuntary bankruptcy petition against Four Star in October 2003, 900 Capital and Four Star knowingly and intentionally devised and executed a scheme to defraud its investors, creditors and others.

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- 15. As part and parcel of this scheme, Four Star obtained investors' money and property in exchange for investments in the form of notes, memberships and "Arbitrage" contracts.
- 16. The business of Four Star was to conduct a Ponzi-type scheme through which the principals and employees of Four Star made monthly payments to investors as "commissions" or "interest" on their investments using funds from more recent investors to lull investors into believing that the companies were solvent and profitable and to solicit additional investments.
- 17. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Four Star made false promises to its investors about the business of Four Star and the conditions under which distributions to investors would be made. Four Star prepared and distributed to investors and others false financial statements that overstated the assets, revenues, and profits of Four Star and its predecessor, 900 Capital.
- 18. In fact, from the inception of 900 Capital, and certainly at the time of the reorganization of its operations into Four Star, the business carried millions of dollars in bad debt and operated at a loss. The company relied on incoming investment to make its monthly payments to investors. At no time was there income from its investments or operations sufficient to meet its obligations to creditors or to make monthly payments to investors or brokers for "commissions" or investment returns.
- 19. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that Four Star did not have or maintain any telephone "Arbitrage" contracts or "Arbitrage" investments, but used the money solicited under those pretenses to pay prior investors.
- 20. Contrary to the representations contained in the Private Placement Memoranda ("PPM") with which Four Star solicited investments, Four Star did not earn sufficient returns from its factoring relationships to pay its investors pursuant to the Cash Flow Note; did not have assets in excess of its liabilities; and should not have paid millions of dollars to its management in fees. Instead, to stay in business it relied on increasing the number and amount of investments by Cash Flow Note holders.

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- 21. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that at all times from 1995 forward, and at least from the 1997 reorganization of 900 Capital into Four Star, Four Star was insolvent. Instead Four Star relied on millions of dollars in worthless, non-performing or non-existing assets to show apparent revenues and solvency.
- 22. Four Star could only afford to make investor payments by soliciting new investments because its operating income did not cover its expenses or its obligations to investors.
- 23. In its PPM, Four Star represented that distributions of cash to members and/or investors would only be paid from "available cash from operations" and they would not be made if the company were insolvent.
- 24. In fact, Four Star was insolvent from its inception, and relied upon new investors to make the monthly payments to investors and/or members, including "commissions" and "interest" on investments.
 - 25. In August 2002, however, Four Star's payments to investors ceased.
- 26. On October 23, 2003, Four Star's investors placed the company into Involuntary Bankruptcy.
- 27. Four Star never developed or acquired any substantial streams of legitimate revenue. Four Star never had revenue sufficient to meet either its total expenses or its obligations to investors standing alone. Instead, Four Star used new investor money, credit lines of its affiliated persons and entities, and other non-income sources to make regular monthly payments to existing investors to give the appearance that it was a profitable organization.
- 28. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendant solicited and obtained additional investors on behalf of Four Star, and in furtherance of Four Star's scheme, while Defendant knew or should have known that Four Star was not a legitimate business, did not have revenues sufficient to pay any return to its investors, and that payments made by Four Star, including those characterized as "commissions", could only be derived from funds provided by the investments of new investors, including those referred to Four Star by Defendant.

Defendant's actions did not provide value to the Debtor, in that the solicitation and obtaining of new investors merely perpetuated the fraudulent scheme of Four Star. Defendant received "commission" payments from Four Star in the amount \$3,000, as follows (the "Commission Payments"):

Check Date	Check No.	Amount
2-29-00	7310	\$3,000
	TOTAL COMMISSION PAYMENTS:	\$3,000

29. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendant was also an investor in Four Star during the years 1997 through 2002. Unlike nearly all of Four Star's investors, who lost all or nearly all of their investments, Defendant received returns that not only completely refunded the original principal of Defendant's investment, but resulted in a net profit to Defendant of \$6,848,604. If Defendant's commissions are included as returns, the net profit is \$6,848,604.

30. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendant, as an investor of Four Star, received the following transfers of funds from Four Star ("Investor Payments"):

Date	Ck#	Transfer
05/31/2000	1013	\$ 90
06/30/01	114868	\$ 630
06/30/01	114867	\$ 209
04/22/02	TRF	\$ 5,005,699
04/22/02	TRF	\$ 8,792
01/16/98	1151	\$ 30,000
03/15/98	1525	\$ 30,000
04/15/98	1806	\$ 30,000
07/15/98	2516	\$ 30,000
11/04/98	3357	\$ 250,000
05/07/02	118705	\$ 264,000
07/31/98	51106	\$ 3,945
08/31/98	51281	\$ 5,000
09/30/98	51463	\$ 5,000
10/31/98	51654	\$ 5,000
11/30/98	51850	\$ 658
3/31/99	52716	\$ 3,255

1 [Date	Ck#	Transfer
2	4/30/99	52949	\$ 4,993
	5/31/99	53194	\$ 12,000
3	6/30/99	53442	\$ 12,000
4 [7/31/99	5598	\$ 18,000
7	8/31/99	5881	\$ 18,000
5	9/30/99	6137	\$ 18,000
6	10/31/99	6311	\$ 18,000
	11/30/99	6507	\$ 18,000
7	11/30/99	54762	\$ 15,986
8 _	01/01/2000	6791	\$ 18,000
	01/01/2000	55035	\$ 15,000
9 _	01/31/2000	7083	\$ 4,521
10	01/31/2000	7095	\$ 18,000
	01/31/2000	55310	\$ 15,000
11	02/29/2000	7292	\$ 27,500
12	02/29/2000	7304	\$ 18,000
	02/29/2000	55596	\$ 15,000
13	03/31/2000	320	\$ 48,575
14 _	03/31/2000	332	\$ 18,000
	03/31/2000	1206	\$ 15,000
15	04/30/2000	522	\$ 52,500
16	04/30/2000	585	\$ 18,000
	04/30/2000	1520	\$ 15,000
17	05/31/2000	794	\$ 52,500
18	05/31/2000	761	\$ 18,000
	05/31/2000	1830	\$ 15,000
19	06/30/2000	1185	\$ 52,500
20	06/30/2000	1204	\$ 18,000
	06/30/2000	2146	\$ 15,000
21	07/31/2000	1455	\$ 52,500
22	07/31/2000	1422	\$ 18,000
	07/31/2000	112459	\$ 15,000
23	08/31/2000	1707	\$ 52,500
24	08/31/2000	1726	\$ 18,000
₂₅ ∥	08/31/2000	112776	\$ 15,000
25	09/30/2000	1976	\$ 52,500
26	09/30/2000	1996	\$ 18,000
→	09/30/2000	113099	\$ 15,000
27	10/31/2000	2225	\$ 52,500
28	10/31/2000	2244	\$ 18,000

	Date	Ck#	Transfer
	10/31/2000	1113536	\$ 15,000
	11/30/2000	112478	\$ 52,500
·	11/30/2000	112516	\$ 18,000
	11/30/2000	1113851	\$ 15,000
	01/01/01	112727	\$ 52,500
5	01/01/01	112764	\$ 18,000
, <u> </u>	01/01/01	1114165	\$ 15,000
'	01/31/01	113008	\$ 52,500
7	01/31/01	113027	\$ 18,000
;	01/31/01	1114482	\$ 15,000
'∥	02/28/01	113338	\$ 52,500
) <u> </u>	02/28/01	113376	\$ 18,000
, ∥	02/28/01	1114809	\$ 15,000
′ ∥ ├─	03/31/01	113632	\$ 52,500
	03/31/01	113670	\$ 18,000
₂ ∥ <u> </u>	03/31/01	1115140	\$ 15,000
	04/30/01	113915	\$ 52,500
; ∥ ├─	04/30/01	113953	\$ 18,000
	04/30/01	1115517	\$ 15,000
'	05/31/01	114299	\$ 52,500
; 	05/31/01	114337	\$ 18,000
	05/31/01	1115842	\$ 7,500
' 	06/30/01	114678	\$ 52,500
	06/30/01	114644	\$ 18,000
	06/30/01	1116174	\$ 15,000
	07/31/01	115155	\$ 52,500
	07/31/01	115193	\$ 18,000
	07/31/01	1116520	\$ 15,000
	08/31/01	115500	\$ 52,500
	08/31/01	115539	\$ 18,000
	08/31/01	1116865	\$ 15,000
	09/30/01	115850	\$ 52,500
	09/30/01	115889	\$ 18,000
, <u> </u>	09/30/01	1117217	\$ 15,000
	10/15/01	116091	\$ 175,000
[;]	10/31/01	116349	\$ 52,500
5	10/31/01	116385	\$ 18,000
	10/31/01	1117606	\$ 15,000
″ ∦ 🗀	11/12/01	116499	\$ 220,505
$\ \ $	11/30/01	116677	\$ 52,500

1	Date	Ck#	Transfer
2	11/30/01	116713	\$ 18,000
	11/30/01	1117976	\$ 15,000
3	12/27/01	117107	\$ 199,640
4 _	01/01/02	116895	\$ 52,500
	01/01/02	116932	\$ 18,000
5	01/01/02	1118359	\$ 15,000
6	01/31/02	117323	\$ 52,500
Ĭ	01/31/02	117359	\$ 18,000
7 -	01/31/02	1118733	\$ 15,000
8	02/28/02	117858	\$ 14,795
	02/28/02	117666	\$ 52,500
9	02/28/02	117630	\$ 18,000
10	02/28/02	1119094	\$ 15,000
10	03/31/02	118215	\$ 75,000
11	03/31/02	118026	\$ 52,500
12	03/31/02	117989	\$ 18,000
12	03/31/02	1120839	\$ 15,000
13	04/30/02	118662	\$ 37,500
14	04/30/02	118518	\$ 52,500
	04/30/02	118482	\$ 18,000
15	04/30/02	1121206	\$ 15,000
16	05/31/02	118959	\$ 52,500
	05/31/02	119082	\$ 18,000
17	05/31/02	1121603	\$ 15,000
18	06/30/02	119416	\$ 52,500
	06/30/02	119452	\$ 18,000
19	06/30/02	1121993	\$ 15,000
20 _	07/31/02	119700	\$ 52,500
	07/31/02	119759	\$ 18,000
21	07/31/02	1122386	\$ 15,000
22	08/31/02	119977	\$ 52,500
	08/31/02	120000	\$ 18,000
23	08/31/02	1122738	\$ 15,000
24	9/24/97	8090	\$ 100,000
	02/15/98	1348	\$ 30,000
25 _	05/15/98	2057	\$ 30,000
26	06/15/98	2303	\$ 30,000
	08/15/98	2721	\$ 30,000
27	09/15/98	2946	\$ 30,000
28 _	10/15/98	3174	\$ 9,763

Date	Ck#	Transfer
08/17/01	115399	\$ 164,062
11/15/97	8386	\$ 30,000
12/15/97	8440	\$ 30,000
2/3/97	7183	\$ 2,917
3/28/97	1755	\$ 2,917
5/28/97	1908	\$ 2,917
4/28/97	7572	\$ 2,917
8/28/97	8031	\$ 2,917
7/28/97	7946	\$ 2,917
2/28/97	7322	\$ 2,917
6/27/97	7849	\$ 2,917
10/15/97	8223	\$ 30,000
05/31/2000	1831	\$ 7,151
06/30/2000	2147	\$ 7,500
07/31/2000	112460	\$ 7,500
08/31/2000	112777	\$ 7,500
09/30/2000	113100	\$ 7,500
10/31/2000	1113537	\$ 7,500
11/30/2000	1113852	\$ 7,500
01/01/01	1114166	\$ 7,500
01/31/01	1114483	\$ 7,500
02/28/01	1114810	\$ 7,500
03/31/01	1115141	\$ 7,500
04/30/01	1115518	\$ 7,500
05/31/01	1115843	\$ 7,500
TOTAL TRA	ANSFERS:	\$ 9,848,604

- 31. The Commission Payments and Investor Payments shall be collectively referred to hereinafter as the "Transfers".
- 32. Plaintiff is informed and believes that additional transfers may have been made to the Defendant within four years of the Petition Date. Plaintiff specifically reserves the right to amend this Complaint to allege additional transfers which may become known after further investigation and discovery is conducted.
- 33. Plaintiff is informed and believes that the Debtor did not receive value in exchange for such Transfers.

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FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Plaintiff is informed and believes that such Transfers are avoidable as fraudulent

[Avoidance of Intentional Fraudulent Transfers]

[11 U.S.C. §§ 544, 548; Cal. Civ. C. §§ 3439.04, 3439.07, 3439.09]

- Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 34 and realleges 35. these paragraphs as though set forth in full.
- 36. Plaintiff is informed and believes and based thereon alleges that the Transfers were made to or for the benefit of the Defendant.
- 37. Plaintiff is informed and believes and based thereon alleges that the Transfers were for no consideration or less than reasonably equivalent value.
- 38. Plaintiff is informed and believes and based thereon alleges that the Transfers were made at a time when the Debtor was insolvent, and/or was rendered insolvent by virtue of said Transfers.
- 39. Plaintiff is informed and believes and based thereon alleges that the Transfers were made on or within four (4) years of the Petition Date, but in no event longer than seven years prior the Petition Date.
- 40. Plaintiff is informed and believes and based thereon alleges that the Transfers were made either in anticipation of bankruptcy and/or to prevent the Debtor from paying its debts. They were made for the purpose of preventing a prospective bankruptcy trustee and/or creditors of the Debtor from obtaining the value of the Transfers. Plaintiff is informed and believes and based thereon alleges that the Transfers were made with the actual intent to hinder, delay or defraud creditors of the Debtor and that said Defendant had knowledge of this intent by actively and knowingly participating in the sham transactions described hereinabove.
- 41. Based upon the foregoing, Plaintiff may avoid the Transfers pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 544, 548 and/or California Civil Code §§ 3439.04, 3439.07, 3439.09.

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SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

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[Avoidance of Constructive Fraudulent Transfers]

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[11 U.S.C. §§ 544, 548; Cal. Civ. C. §§ 3439.04. 3439.05, 3439.07, 3439.09]

Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 41 and realleges

Plaintiff is informed and believes and based thereon alleges that there are present

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these paragraphs as though set forth in full.

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Plaintiff is informed and believes and based thereon alleges that the Transfers 43. were made to or for the benefit of the Defendant.

creditors of the Debtor listed at the time of the Transfers that still remain unpaid as of the Petition Date.

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45. Plaintiff is informed and believes and based thereon alleges that future creditors of the Debtor existed following the Transfers who remain unpaid as of the Petition Date.

- 46. Plaintiff is informed and believes and based thereon alleges that the Transfers were made on or within four (4) years of the Petition Date, but in no event longer than seven years prior the Petition Date.
- 47. Plaintiff is informed and believes and based thereon alleges that Transfers were made:
 - a. For less than reasonably equivalent value, or any value, in exchange for said Transfers:
 - While the Debtor was engaged or was about to engage in a business or a transaction for which the remaining assets of the Debtor were unreasonably small in relation to the business or the transaction;
 - c. While the Debtor intended to incur, or believed or reasonably should have believe the Debtor would incur, debts beyond the Debtor's ability to pay them as they became due; and/or
 - d. By the time that the Debtor was insolvent and/or was rendered insolvent by virtue of said Transfers.

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rverside, CA 92501

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	PROCEEDING CO	ADVERSARY PROCEEDING NUMBER (Court Use Only)			
PLAINTIFFS RICHARD A. MARSHACK, capacity as the Chapter 7		DEFENDANTS DAVID ROBERTS, an individual			
Address		Address 947 Tiverton Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024			
ATTORNEYS (Firm Name, Address, James C. Bastian, Jr. — Balrena Leigh Norton — Bar No. 20 SHULMAN HODGES & BA 3750 University Avenue, SRiverside, California 9250 Telephone: (949) 340-34 Facsimile: (949) 340-30	ar No. 175415 lo. 167017 19974 I STIAN LLP Suite 670 01	ATTORNEYS (If Known) Unknown RECEIVED NOV 2 3 2005 CLERK U.S. BAHARUPEN COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA BY Deputy Clerk			
	1 U.S. PLAINTIFF	2 U.S. DEFENDANT 3 U.S. NOT A PARTY			
PARTY (Check one box only) CAUSE OF ACTION (Write a brief:					
CAUSE OF ACTION (Write a bine)	statement of cause of action,	mendaning an O.S. Statistics involvedy			
Complaint to Recover Money or Propert		IDE OF OUR			
·		IRE OF SUIT most appropriate box only.)			
☑454 To recover money or property 435 To determine validity, priority or extent of a lien or other interest	455 To revoke an order of a Chapter11 or 426 To determine the	_ · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
in property	debt 11 U.S.C. §5	· ·			
458 To obtain approval for the sale of both the interest of the estate and of a co-owner in property	434 To obtain an injun- equitable relief 457 To subordinate an	, i			
424 To object or to revoke a discharge 11 U.S.C. 727		nere such			
ORIGIN OF Z1 Original Proceeding (Check one box only.)	2 Removed 4 Reinstated Proceeding or Reopened	5 Transferred CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS from Another ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23			
DEMAND NEAREST THOUS		OTHER RELIEF SOUGHT JURY DEMAND			
BANKRUPTO	CY CASE IN WHICH T	HIS ADVERSARY PROCEEDING ARISES			
NAME OF DEBTOR Four Star Financial Services LLC BANKRUPTCY CASE NUMBER LA 03-37579 TD					
DISTRICT IN WHICH CASE IS PENDING CENTRAL	LOS ANGELES	NAME OF JUDGE THOMAS B. DONOVAN			
RELATED ADVERSARY PROCEEDING (IF ANY)					
PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT	ADVERSARY PROCEEDING NO.			
DISTRICT	DIVISIONAL OFFICE	NAME OF JUDGE			
FILING FEE (Check one box only.) FEE ATTACHED FEE NOT REQUIRED FEE IS DEFERRED					
DATE November 23, 2005 PRINT NAME Irena Leigh Norton SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY (OR PLAINTIFF) SHULMAN HODGES & BASTIAN LLP By: Tural Leigh Norton					